

REMARKS

Currently, claims 1, 4-10, 12, 14, 17, and 19-34, including independent claims 1 and 17, are pending in the present application. Independent claim 1, for instance, is directed to an article comprising a substrate which includes at least one visual indicating agent in an amount effective to change color when exposed to an odor. The visual indicating agent is selected from the group consisting of 4,4'-bis(dimethylamino)-benzhydrol, pararosaniline, alpha-naphtholbenzene, and naphthochrome green. Furthermore, the limitation that the visual indicating agent is applied in differing concentrations to two or more zones and has now been incorporated into independent claim 1.

In the Office Action, all claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. Specifically, the Office Action stated that the claimed component "naphtholbenzein" should be "naphtholbenzene." Applicant agrees and has amended the claims to reflect "naphtholbenzene." As such, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Additionally, claim 20 was objected to for being dependent upon itself. Applicant submits that the mistake was a typo and has corrected the dependency of claim 20. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this objection.

In the Office Action, independent claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,407,960 to Tratnyek. Tratnyek is directed to an indicator system for visually monitoring ethylene oxide sterilization by color changes of the indicating composition of the system. The indicating composition may be

Micheler's hydrol (4,4'-bis(dimethylamino)-benzhydrol) and the substrate utilized may be a clay-containing substrate. It is the Office's position that the clay-containing substrate of Tratnyek functions to anticipate Applicants' claim limitation of an odor absorbing agent. As a preliminary matter, Applicant respectfully disagrees. Tratnyek merely teaches utilizing clay materials, such as those found in paper substrates, to provide a desired acidic environment. Col. 2, lines 45-53.

However, in an attempt to expedite prosecution, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the limitation that the indicating agent is applied in differing concentrations in two or more zones. Tratnyek does not disclose or suggest such a limitation. Indeed, the Office Action indicated that dependent claims 8 and 9 that previously contained the limitation defined over Tratnyek.

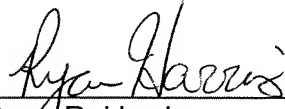
As such, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in complete condition for allowance and favorable action, therefore, is respectfully requested. Examiner George is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned, however, should any issues remain after consideration of this Amendment.

Please charge any additional fees required by this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 04-1403.

Appl. No. 10/687,269
Amdt. dated Aug. 12, 2008
Reply to Office Action of May 12, 2008

Respectfully requested,

DORITY & MANNING, P.A.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan P. Harris", written over a horizontal line.

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Date: 8/12/08